Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
March 20, 2024

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:00 pm on March 20, 2024, in the Administration Building Room 345. Chair Tao Ye presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Ye*
   A. March 11 UCORP meeting
   The main topics of discussion were the following:
   - UC Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites
   - Area C requirements (mathematics)
   - Senate Regulation 630 in the context of online education.
   - Oracle challenges. CoR Chair Ye led this discussion at the UCORP meeting. Other UC campuses are also experiencing similar problems. One major challenge is that Oracle does not integrate with existing campus systems. UCORP will continue to discuss this issue.
   B. March 11 Divisional Council meeting
   The main topics of discussion were the following:
   - UC Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites
   - Senate Regulation 630 in the context of online education.
   - Chancellor attended and provided updates on a variety of issues. The state budget outlook is negative but the Governor's annual May revise will provide a clearer picture. The Legislative Analyst's Office recommended a claw back of funding for future, proposed new buildings at UC Merced and another campus. This is not confirmed.
   - The campus created the Opportunity Fellowship program which has funded (from UCOP) 27 students who are affected by California law AB 540 (which states that certain nonresident students are exempt from paying nonresident supplemental tuition) on fellowships.
   - The campus has seen an increase in the number of applications and hopes this converts into higher enrollment.

II. Consent Calendar
   A. Today's agenda
   B. Draft March 6 meeting minutes

   Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III.   Consultation with VCR Wilson
    A. Update on the Financial Management and Reporting Taskforce
- The hiring of staff in schools is slower than anticipated. The task force discussed contacting incoming EVC/Provost Dumont to suggest that the task force meet with the school deans on staff hiring. The goal is for financial training to be uniform among staff across the schools, ORED, and the ORUs.
- The task force is preparing a draft plan for short term and long term goals.

    B. Climate Action I&E Proof of Concept solicitation (deadline April 1st)
- VCR Wilson stated that $250,000 is available for this competition and proposals can be in increments of up to $50,000. The state is trying to obtain solutions quickly for climate action and to accelerate those solutions that would benefit the state around climate. In response to a CoR member's question, VCR Wilson confirmed that this competition is for product development and not basic science. She reminded CoR that ORED allocated $9 million in climate-related funding over the past year for basic science. While she would like to have a discretionary fund she could use to provide seed money for all kinds of UC Merced faculty research, she does not have such a fund at this time.

    C. UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) solicitation
    VCR Wilson announced that UCOP just issued the solicitation. She emailed the link to the CoR chair and analyst during the CoR meeting and the analyst forwarded the information to CoR members.

IV.   Core Facilities Survey Response Summaries
    CoR members were previously asked to summarize sections of the core facilities faculty survey responses.

    CoR continued working on their summaries in the meeting.

    Action: CoR will continue summarizing the survey responses. At the March 25 Divisional Council meeting, CoR Chair Ye will provide a brief update on CoR's work. CoR's summaries and memo of recommendations will be sent to Divisional Council in mid-April with a request that they be transmitted to the administration.

V.   Systemwide Review Item
        Proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality ("Characteristics of Educational
        Quality at the University of California"). This document was prepared by the University
        Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP).

        Action: CoR will select a lead reviewer at the April 3 meeting. CoR's comments, if any,
        are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, April 19.

VI.   Other Business
        CoR Chair Ye briefly shared a mockup of a proposed, draft new user interface for Oracle as
        developed by OIT as part of the Financial Management Task Force.

        There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

        Attest: Tao Ye, CoR Chair